10.

REFLECTIONS

UPON

Coll. Sidney's

ARCADIA;

THE

OLD CAUSE,

BEING SOME

Obſervations

Upon his Laſt

PAPER,

Given to the Sheriffs at his Execution.

LONDON,

Printed for *Thomas Dring*, at the *Sign* of the *Harrow* at the end of *Chancery-Lane* in *Fleet-Street*, 1684.

[10]

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REFLECTIONS
UPON
Coll. Sidney's
LAST
PAPER.

THere can certainly be nothing which doth more clearly Evidence the truth of an Almighty Providence, by whose wondrous Power the whole Syſtem of this Lower World is guided, and ſtrangely directed, then thoſe remarkable Retaliations of Divine Vengeance which are moſt commonly in this Life repaid to thoſe unfortunate Perſons who have been guilty of Notorious and Flagitious Crimes. It is the common Obſervation, that *Murder*, the blackeſt of all Sins, *will out*. And if Common Murders of inconſiderable Perſons have afforded ſuch remarkable Inſtances, of wonderful Diſcoveries, whereby the Bloody Actors have been as it were by the immediate Finger of God brought to the deſerved Stroke of Juſtice; how much more reaſonable is it to expect, that when wicked Men advance to thoſe daring Heights, as to commit the moſt Execrable of all Murders upon the Sacred Perſons of Sovereign Kings who are Gods anointed, Gods Vice-gerents and Repreſentatives, and as he himſelf ſtyles them *Dij hominibus*, *I have ſaid ye are Gods*; that Ven-

geance ſhould rouſe up its Almighty Arm to puniſh the Criminals? For if Kings bear the moſt immediate Character of the Almighty Monarch of the Univerſe, the Sacrilegious Hands that are lifted up againſt them, do, ſo far as it is in the Power of their Feeble Malice, offer Violence to that Supreme Majeſty whoſe Subſtitutes they are, and who hath intruſted them with the Government of the People and Nations, over whom he hath placed them.

It was a ſmart ſalutation with which that ill woman *Jezebel* accoſted the furious *Jehu* at his Triumphant Entrance into *Jezreel* after he had clear'd his way to the Throne by the Death of his Soveraign, *Had* Zimri *Peace who ſlew his Maſter*? And though the Execution which he did, was by the immediate direction of Heaven, and he and his Poſterity to the Fourth Generation, were by Promiſe ſecured as well againſt the Crime as the Puniſhment of Traitors and Uſurpers, yet whoever will, or hath conſulted the Hiſtories of the World, will eaſily receive Satisfaction that very few of thoſe Audacious Men who have by Treaſons and Murders attempted to Eſtabliſh their own Uſurpations upon the Blood and Ruin of Lawful Kings and Governments, have eſcaped the Signal Stroke of Divine Vengeance and humane Juſtice; and indeed who ever writes his Title to a Crown in the Blood of his Lawful Prince and Predeceſſors, does at the ſame time ſet his own Head and Crown at the ſame rate, to the next bold adventurer for the Prize, and Purchaſe.

There cannot be a clearer Demonſtrative Inſtance then in this very unfortunate Gentleman Mr. *Sidney*. For this very Gentleman, was not only an Actor in that Unnatural Rebellion which with the Effuſion of ſo much Blood was carried on againſt his late Majeſty by his Traiterous and Diſloyal Subjects of both Houſes, aſſiſted by the Presbyterians, Independents, Anabaptiſts and other wild Enthuſiaſt & Diſſenters from the Church of *England*, but he was alſo one in that infamous Commiſſion for the pretended *High Court of Juſtice*, by which they Tryed, Condemned, and put to Death one of the moſt Excellent Men and moſt admirable Princes for Learning, Virtue and Piety, that ever wore a Royal Diadem. He was not only Named in this Execrable Commiſſion, but was actually in the

Court

Court, and upon the Bench as a Coaſſeſſor with that Villain *Bradſhaw* and the reſt at the Tryal of that Illuſtrious Sufferer, as I am able to make appear from a true Tranſcript of every ſeveral days Proceeding, in the Tryal; the Original whereof is atteſted under *Phelps* the Clerk of that pretended Courts own hand, and was by him drawn up, and the Names of all that were Preſent each Day entred, By order from the Jaylors, or as they termed themſelves the Keepers of the Liberties of *England*, that ſo it might be kept in *perpetuam Rei memoriam.*

It is true he was not preſent when the Sentence was paſſed, nor the execrable Warrant for the barbarous Execution ſigned; but for what reaſon I am not able to ſay, doubtleſs the Paſſion, he expreſſes for that *Old Cauſe* which was then in the *Meridian* of its Glory, did not permit him out of Remorſe of Conſcience to withdraw himſelf. However merciful Heaven gave him a long time of Repentance, almoſt forty Years; but when he was become ſo obdurate, to be ſo far from Repenting of his being Acceſſary to the execrable Murder of one King, as upon the Reſurrection of his *Good Old Cauſe*, to become a Conſpirator how to effect that Horrid Crime upon another, lingering Juſtice, was turned into Fury, and he was taken in the Pit which he had digged for others. And truly, to me this appears very Remarkable, and though I can hardly hope it, yet I wiſh the Diſſenters would not, as ſure thoſe fooliſh People did, who made ſuch haſte after his Execution to get Hand-kerchiefs dip't in his Blood, look upon him as a *Martyr*, but as, he really is, a Monument of that Divine Juſtice, which ever purſues, and will certainly overtake Traitors, Murderers, and impenitent Rebels, and Regicides: And let them be aſſured who makes Saints and Martyrs of ſuch Monſters of Men, that Hell is crowded with them, and indeed Heaven being a Monarchy, a republican Rebel cannot be thought a Friend to that Glorious Government, or capable of being Happy, under the Divine Right there, which is ſo odious to him here below.

It were Happy for thoſe murmuring Tribes of our Factious and Anti-monarchical Diſſenters, if at laſt; either, the ſevere or merciful Proceedings of God and the

King were capable, of opening their Eyes; and truly if they will not see such Wonderous and Miraculous Providences, and Preservations, such a Resurrection of this Monarchy from the Grave, and such visible Demonstrations of the immediate care of Heaven to support it, against all its Enemies and Opposers, they must wilfully seal up their Eyes against the cleerest Beams of Truth and Wonder; and most certainly where Old Sinners and Rebels will not see the Finger of God, to bring them to Conviction and Repentance for their former Guilt, but will still be running further upon the Score, they shall feel the Terrible weight of his avenging Hand of Justice, who has told us, *Vengeance is mine and I will repay it, and whoever sheds the Blood of man, by man shall his Blood be shed.* Much less then can any man lift up his hand against the Lords anointed and be Guiltless.

There is a pretty odd Passage in the Life of the late Lord *Russel*, which upon this occasion I cannot but recount, both because I have it from credible Authority, and that it shews his Lordship was unfortunately tinctured with this *King killing* Principle from his early Years, as also that God Almighty is displeased even with murdering his Vice-gerants in Pageantry, and that it is dangerous jesting with the Mis-fortunes of innocent Majesty, during the late execrable Rebellion, when Justice was turned into Worm-wood, and Loyalty was accounted the most Capital Offence, one Mr. *Wimpey* an Orthodox, Loyal Minister of the Church of *England*, was, as Thousands more of the Clergy then were, sequestred and ejected from his Benefice of *Totnam-High-Cross*, and one *Lewis* a Factious and Pragmatical Presbyterian intruded into his Living. This *Lewis* being a notable Zealous stickler for the Cause, was so high in Reputation, with many great Men of the Rebellious Faction, that they intrusted him with the Education and Principling of their Children, and among others, it was the unhappiness of the late Lord *Russell* to be trained up under his Care and Government; and that vile Wretch, that he might enter their tender and easie Minds with those Traiterous Impressions which were then esteemed, those Truths which Mr. *Sidney* now saith pass for Treason, to divert his Scholars, he composed a Farce, wherein he and they

were

were all Actors, there was all the Formalities of a High Court of Justice *President*, *Sollicitor*, *Witnesses*, &c. the Criminal was an Old Shock-Water-dog, upon whom the impudent Villain bestowed the Name of *Charles Stuart*, who was there Arraigned, Tryed, Condemned and Executed by cutting off his Head. The Prodigate Wretch thereby, with the highest Degree of contempt instilling the deadly Poyson of the Lawfulness of Deposing and Murdering Soveraign Princes, and inspiring those tender Minds with mean contemptable Thoughts of Majesty the most sacred thing on Earth, as of the Murdering a King were no more then the cutting off a Dogs Neck.

I confess I am not much addicted to that Presbyterian Humour, of making every Extraordinary accident that happens to any Person a Judgment, and presently according to their Proud Familiarity with Eternal Decrees and Purposes, Assigning Reasons for the strange Dispensations of the Omnipotent Will: but yet I cannot but make some such Reflections as the foregoing, when there appears such a Resemblance between the Crimes and Punishments. And however since we live in such an Incredulous Age, wherein Men can very difficultly be persuaded to believe even their own Eyes and Ears, especially the Factious and Dissenting Party who live like Moles, continually working under Ground to undermine the Government, but have no Eyes to see the brightest Beams of Truth. I think it is a fair Presumption to introduce the Belief of Mens future Actions, when it makes it apparent that they bear an exact Conformity to their very almost innate Principles; for it is a most rational Inference, that if Mr. *Sidney* by his own Confession, *was from his Youth ingaged for that Old Cause*, which was the most damnable Conspiracy that ever was formed, not only against the Person of the King then Reigning, but against the very Monarchy, and the Fundamental Constitution of the Government, and Mr. *Sidney* is known to Persist in, and obstinately adhere to the very same Principles, I say it makes it more then probable that he should be ready upon the first opportunity to ingage himself in the very same Counsels and with such Confederates, as in his opinion might again remount that *Old Cause* into the Triumphant Chariot of Government,

which could never be Effected but by the Ruin of the King and Monarchy. And if my Lord *Russel* was so early taught the Doctrine of Contempt and Murdering Kings, and hath in the following Course of his Life ever since he Writ Man and entred upon Publique Affairs, Associated himself with those who were Notoriously disaffected to his Majesties Person and the Government both in Church and State, if he made himself one of the Popular Patrons of the Discontented, Factious and Disaffected Party; if in all things of Publique concern he set himself in the Front of those, who for these late Years have opposed the King, and by giving Countenance to the Dissenters, the known Enemies of the King and Government, indeavoured the Subversion of it, no Rational Man can look upon it as strange or unaccountable, upon the detecting of a Conspiracy against the King and Government to find him ingaged in it.

I confess it is much more Surprizing to me, that after the cleareſt Evidence in the World of this wicked and damnable conspiracy, so fortified with the falling in, of so many Circumstances known to the whole Nation, there should be found any unbelievers, so Audacious, as not only to doubt, but to endeavour to perswade others to a disbelief of it. And truly they who do, of which there are too many, have a greater Proportion by far of Malice, then either of Honesty or Policy, for certainly whoever indeavours to perswade the Nation, that this Conspiracy is false, or those who have fallen by the Stroke of Justice dyed Innocent, declares himself an open and avowed Enemy to the Kings Life, Person and Government, all which were at Stake; and to Ridicule this Plot as a Sham and Forgery, is the best way they can possibly contrive to cover another, and to prepare the People for it, by perswading them into the worst Opinion that can possibly be entertained of any King or Government, *viz.* That they are so far from preserving, that they lay Trains to destroy the best of their Subjects. But let these confident Traiterous *Bigots* for the *Old Cause* be assured, that they do but lay Snares for themselves, and that one time or another, their busie Tongues will be their Ruin; for Kings have long Hands, and the Justice of God and Men will certainly find out and punish

these

these Common Enemies of our Peace, the Tranquility of the Nation, and the Safety of the best Government under the Sun.

But there is nothing in the World more remarkable in my opinion, nor more Convictive, then that the Conspirators themselves have every Man of them given Evidence of the Truth of it, in their last and dying words. Nay, even those Papers which have been written, with a perfect design to put a Fucus and Varnish over the ugly Face of that deformed *Hag* the *Old Cause*, have yet contrary to their Intention, given the cleerest Proof of the Truth of this Execrable Conspiracy; insomuch that there needs little more to manifest their Guilt, and the Justice of their Sufferings, then those very Papers which were by them intended as a Vindication of their pretended Innocence.

Much of this Nature hath been made appear by several Hands, both upon the Speech of the late *Lord Russel* and this Paper of Mr. *Sidney's*; I shall not therefore take it in Pieces and Examine every Period, but rather indeavour to shew what the main Scope and Design of the Writer was; and truly this is to be said of him, that his Life and Death were all of a Piece, for he Lived a Rebel and a Regicide, and 'tis no wonder to find a Person that is such out of Principle dye a Traytor in Fact, nor is it strange that he who breathed nothing but Hatred of Crowned Heads, should indeavour to spread the Poyson wherewith his very Soul was infected, and with his Expiring Words convey the Contagion unto others; but like the Viper, the most Noxious and Poysonous Animal whilest living, there is an excellent Counterpoyson to be found in this Dying Speech. For the very End, Scope, Aim and Drift of this odd Address to *Men, Brethren and Fathers, Friends, Country-men and Strangers* is first an appeal *ad Populum*, that Soveraign Tribunal of all People, Kindreds, Languages, Tongues and Nations, which his crazed Imagination had set up in his Fancy as the *dernier resort*, the last High Court of Justice, from which, like that whereof he was a Member, there was no Appeal, being the ultimate Authority of Mankind in Nature.

2*ly*. It is an Arraignment of the Justice of the Nation, as

preſſing the Innocent, and denying Juſtice, which is in Effect a moſt ſevere Charge againſt the King, who is the Fountain of Juſtice, and a calling upon the People, with the powerful Voyce of a dying Martyr for their Cauſe, to re-aſſume their Soveraign Power of judging their Soveraign for the Breach of that Fundamental Contract, which he wildly talks of.

Thirdly, It is a magnifying of the *Old Cauſe*, to make the People inclinable to it. An Enthuſiaſtick Incentive to a new Rebellion upon the Old ſcore of Reformation.

And what is the Reſult of all this but to ſet us all together by the Ears, to Embroyl theſe Nations again in all the Calamities of a Civil War, and to reduce us to thoſe deplorable Extremities of unavoidably falling either under Tyranny or Anarchy, the two greateſt Miſchiefs that can poſſibly happen to any People?

Indeed he makes a mighty flutter about thoſe Treaſonable Papers found in his Study, as being only ſome private things written in Anſwer to Sr. *Robert Filmer's* Book, which yet remains unanſwerable, and lays down that wild Poſition of the Soveraignty of the People, as the Foundation of all Governments, which is not only in it's own Nature perfect Non-ſenſe, but deſtructive of all Government; For it confounds the *Relata* of Governors and Governed, making the Governors and Governed the ſame, which is an Error contrary to the moſt eaſie and natural Logick. For I may as well be ſaid, to be my own Father and my own Son too; as that I, or the Collective Body of People or Nations, can be ſaid to be at the ſame time the Sovereign Power, and yet Subjects to that Soveraign Power: And beſides this lays an eternal Foundation for perpetual Changes and Alterations in Government, for by this Poſition, which how true a Proteſtant ſoever Mr. *Sydney* was, is the perfect Spawn of *Bellarmine* and the Popiſh Doctors, all Governments ought to be Elective, and there can be no ſuch thing, as any Heriditary or Succeſſive Right to Crowns and Governments. And then there will never fail to be as many Aſpiring Pretenders, to the Delegation of this Sovereign Power, as there are Popular and Ambitious Men, who will not have the Patience to attend the Regular and common Courſe of making a Vacancy in the Throne,

but will indeavour to remove the present Possessor, by all ways *per fas & nefas*, to instate themselves in the Sovereign Authority: This we see in the declining State of the *Roman Empire*, when the Military men undertook this Sovereign Power of chusing and creating Emperors, which is exactly the Case before us; and in this Principle, as in the very *Materia Prima* the Mother Cause, is to be found the Root of all the Rebellions, Plots, Conspiracies, Faction, Sedition and Disorders, with which this Antimonarchical Faction have of those late Years, so miserably distracted these three Kingdoms; which if there were no other Arguments to confute it, is certainly sufficient to render it detestable not only to Sober, Wise, and judicious Persons, but to all Degrees, Estates, and Conditions of Men, who must of necessity feel the Dismal Effects of this Horrid Principle wherever it prevails.

But after all this Popular flourish of Mr. *Sidney*, and tickling the People with their imaginary Sovereignty, over their King; after all his mighty Care for settling the Title of Kings upon the sure Basis of being the willing Nations, and Peoples Trustees, and Slaves to their Subjects; and after all his Traversing his Ground and fencing off the Treason, while he tells us that what was said in his Book of *Nero, Domitian*, &c. That it was applyed to him by *Invendo's*, he very fairly slurs his false Die upon the Credulous, and tells us not a Word of what was proved upon him at his Tryal out of the same Papers, and concerned the King without an *Invendo*, viz. *That the General revolt of a Nation from its own Magistrates is not Rebellion, that the Power of calling and dissolving Parliaments is not in the King.* Tryal of *Algernon Sidney* Esq; *Pag.* 26. Here's the King dethron'd, and no way to help himself, for this Revolt of the People he says can never be called Rebellion; here's Treason by Whole-Sale without *Invendo's* or Constructions, at which he seems to be so much offended as contrary to the *stat.* 25. *Ed.* 3. *Sidneys* Paper *pag.* 3.

And if this be not plain down right Treason, without any Snarling or Construing, and Writing it an overt Act, and far beyond Compassing or imagining, which that Act makes Treason, truly People may both do and say what they will, break the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy

premacy without Perjury, call Parliaments without the Kings Writ, continue them against his Will, and not dissolve them but at their own Pleasure; they may shake off all Obligations of Obedience, Associate, Covenant, Arm, Fight against him, Subdue him, Dethrone and Murder him, if they prosper in the Attempt, and yet be no Rebels; for all this is included in this Teeming Expression of Peoples *Revolting* from their Magistrates, which he saith can never be called Rebellion, and by consequence is no Crime, but on the contrary Lawful and Commendable. Nay this is not a Fiction, a Story of a Possibility of such Consequences from this Principle, but a Series of sad Truths, all which were, to the Everlasting Infamy of the Actors, of which Mr. *Sidney* was no small one, having from his Youth by his own Confession been ingaged in them, Acted here in these Nations upon the late King and his Loyal Adherents, by those Bloody Rebels, Traitors and Regicides, this Gentlemans Confederates and Accomplices in the late Execrable and dreadful Rebellion.

In the next place the Paper aims chiefly at his own Vindication, which he indeavours by lessening the Reputation of the Witnesses the Jury and his Judges. Now though the Printed Tryal is a sufficient Vindication of the whole proceeding, which was Managed with much Coolness and Temper, as any Tryal I have seen; yet it is worth our while to observe, that such as were Saints whilest Traytors and Conspirators, become Devils and Perjured when once they become Discoverers and Witnesses; and that Point of the Lord *Howard* so much insisted upon both in this and the Lord *Russel's* Tryal, and attested by so many Witnesses, is so sufficiently answered by himself in the Lord *Russel's* Tryal, and is so natural for any Person to conceal his own Guilt by Vouching the Innocency of his Accomplices, that it looks like a very great Weakness in Mr. *Sidney* to repeat a thing which so easily brings its own Answer; and is a greater Weakness, or however wilfulness in those who will believe it lessens any thing of the Truth of the Lord *Howard's* Testimony. For let any Person put himself under the Lord *Howard's* then Circumstances, and his Heart will tell him, he would have done the same thing in all

Companies

Companies, and not have run to the Earl of *Bedford*, and before so many Witnesses have proclaimed his own Guilt, when as yet he did not hear he was accused, or his Name brought upon the Stage. But Mr. *Sidney* forgot the most Material Witness against him, which was himself, his whole Life, his Words, his Actions, his Writings, evidence sufficiently his Guilt, for 'tis no wonder to see him in a Conspiracy, who thinks a Revolt from the Magistrates cannot be called Rebellion, and who hath Actually set in Judgment upon his Natural Liege Lord and Soveraign, and helped to bring his Sacred Head to the impious Stroke of the Executioner.

And for the Bench which he saith, *was filled with such as were Blemishes to the Bar.* I think the Tongue of Traytor not the least Slander, and it is their Glory, not their Shame, that their Faith and Loyalty to their Prince and Country, in opposing such as Mr. *Sidney* and his Common-wealth Faction, when they began to be so Rampant, as to be thinking of a *Revolt from their Magistrates*, and hatching this Conspiracy, are those Blemishes which Mr. *Sidney* is so much offended at, and which have deservedly removed them from the Bar to the Bench. But that Period as before was intimated, was intended through the Judges Coif to strike at the Crown. For saith he, *lest the means of Destroying the best* Protestants *in* England *should fail, the Bench must be filled*, &c. Every Body knows who fills the Bench, and 'tis easie to Guess the meaning of this Malicious Paragraph, but the barking of the Dogs does not hurt the Moon, nor the Fools or Madman's throwing Dirt at it blacken the the Sun, but returns upon the Face of him that throws it. But if Mr. *Sidney* and such as he, are the best Protestants, bless me God! what a sort of People are the worst? If Traitors, Rebels and King-killers come to be the only Saints, we are even in a fair way to set up the God of this World, and the Moloch of the *Old Cause*, for the Object of Religion, for the Devil was the first Rebel against Monarchy, and a Murderer from the beginning, and truly the *Old Cause* is as like him, as if She had been spit out of his Mouth.

And by the last Prayer of this Paper, which is the third thing Considerable, one would think, this Idol of

the *Old Cause* was the Object of Mr. *Sidny's* Religion, for he may be a Turk, a Jew or a Papist, for any Account he here gives us, of his Faith or Religion, which is usual for dying men to do. Protestant is a large Denomination, for there are Presbyterian, Independent, Anabaptist, Quaker, and a matter of a hundred and fifty more sorts of People that call themselves so; certainly he was not of the Church of *England*, but it is to be supposed he was one of the best Protestants, who were therefore as he tells you to be destroyed; so that from hence we may infer, that Traitors are Mr. *Sidney's* best Protestants, which being as the *Logicians* say simply converted, is, that Mr. *Sidney's* best Protestants are Traitors: Now let which of the dissenting Brethren like him upon these Terms, take this Martyr for the *Old Cause* into the Calendar of their Church, and much good may the Reputation they will get by it do them.

But because he prays so heartily for this *Old Cause*, that he forgets to forgive or pray for his Enemies, the King and Government as Christianity Commands, and the true Martyrs always did, Let us see the true Visage of this fairer Mistress of his Soul, which he so Zealously recommends to God and the World, praying God, *to defend his own Cause, to defend those that defend it, stir up such as are Faint, direct those that are Willing, confirm those that Waver.*

And that we may take a shore survey of it. This *Old Cause, in which he was from his Youth ingaged*, was that Pretence of Reformation of Religion, Defence of the Liberty of the Subject, and Privilege of Parliament, which the Puritan Faction had been so long hammering in the latter end of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, the whole Reign of King *James*, and which being accoutred with all her Formalities, was set upon the Reign of King *Charles* the First, like *Nebuchadnezzar's* Golden Image in the Plain of *Dura*, and all people Commanded to fall down and Worship.

'Twas this that taught the Scottish Presbyterians first to rebel, or as they called it, to Petition their King with Swords in their mouths.

It was the *Old Cause*, which with the Hypocritical Pretenses of making him the most Glorious King in *Christendom*, wrought upon the most excellent Temper of King *Charles*

the First, to pass the Act for perpetuating the Factious Parliament of *November* the 3*d.* 1640. It was the *Old Cause*, which by popular Tumults brought the Noble Earl of *Strafford* to the Block. It was the *Old Cause*, that inspired the Schismatical Rabble, to those Insolencies and Tumults, which first banished the King from the City of *London*; It was this *Cause* that seized the Kings Navy, Forts, Magazines, and the Militia of the Kingdom, that wrested the Sword out of his hands, and then turned the point of it against his Royal Breast. It was the *Cause*, that purged the two Houses of all their Loyal Members, and that inspired the remaining Dregs of a Parliament, to raise Arms, Men and Money, against the King: It was the *Cause*, that led those brutish Rebels into the Field, where with flying Colours, Drums beating, Trumpets sounding, Cannons roaring, they fought with their Soveraign. It was this *Old Cause*, that taught these Rebels to enter into Protestations, Vows, Covenants, Confederacies and Associations, contrary to their repeated Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy. It was the *Cause*, that under Pretence of Reformation, abolished the Apostolical Government of Episcopacy, turned St. *Paul's* Cathedral into a Horse-Guard, robbed and defaced Churches, turned the Lawful Pastors out of Doors, and Committed the poor Sheep to the Care and keeping of the Wolves, of Sectaries, Schismaticks and Hereticks. It was this *Cause* that first brought up those Taxes, Excise, Monthly, Weekly Assessments, before wholly unknown to us and our Ancestors. It was this *Cause*, that set up the Bankrupt, publick Faith to pick the Pockets of the Nation, to maintain this Bloody and unnatural Rebellion. It was this *Cause*, that murdered the admirable Prelate, the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and so many of the Nobility and Gentry, and in Conclusion, that Illustrious Martyr King *Charles* the First, before the Gate of his own Royal Palace of *White-Hall*. It was the *Cause*, that sequestred, plundred, oppressed the whole Nation with free quarter; Military, and the most Arbitrary Government of the Sword; that consumed Forty Millions of Treasure, and above two Hundred Thousand Lives, that subverted Monarchy and Parliaments, Church and State, that set up a Democratick Common-wealth, that rolled

us from that to the absolute Tyranny and Slavery under the Usurper *Oliver*, whose Will was the only *Magna Charta* and Law of the three Nations. It was this same *Old Cause* that banished our present Soveraign and the whole Royal Family, that Bandied the Government from Pillar to Post, till we were all in Confusion, from which, Providence rescued us by the Miraculous Restauration of his Sacred Majesty, under whose Auspicious Raign how happy were we, till this *Old Cause* began again, about Coll. *Sidney*'s return into *England*, in the Year 1677, to Discompose the Peace and Tranquility both of Church and State, and by this happily detected Conspiracy to indeavour the Ruin of them both.

In short, this *Old Cause* of Mr. *Sidneys* is the Daughter of the old Serpent, who was for a Reformation in Heaven, & made the first Conspiracy against the Almighty Monarch. She is the Mother of Sedition, Hypocrisie, Perjury, Rebellion, Murder, Rapine, Sacriledge, War, Slaughter, Tyranny, Oppression, Slavery, Confusion, and Ruin, and if these Qualifications, and all that can be said, that is Wicked and Impious on this side Hell, which may literally to a tittle, be Justified against Her, be not sufficient to recommend this Old Beldam to the Eternal Detestation of all Mankind, *Lucifer*, *Belzebub*, Satan, and all the Infernal Crue, may in due time hope too, to be recommended to the World, for certainly they are the Great Patriots of this *Old Cause*. For let Men call themselves by what Names they please, best Protestants, or true Protestants, or what other Titles of Reputation they can Coin, to gain Popular Applause, the Rule of the Eternal Son of God will be of perpetual Truth and Conviction, which assures us from what Stem we ought to derive the Pettegree of all such vain Pretenders to Sanctimony and this *Old Cause*, That most infallibly they have the Devil for their father, who do his Works.

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